

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 01746 230608Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T AMMAN 1746

EXDIS

FOR ATHERTON FROM PICKERING

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L., JR), JO, XF, US
SUBJECT: TRAVEL PLANS

REF A) JERUSALEM 0492, B) AMMAN 1686

1. WE WILL BE DELIGHTED TO SEE YOU FEBRUARY 27-28.
2. UNFORTUNATELY SHARAF ALSO IS AWAY WITH KING. CROWN PRINCE HASSAN IS HERE, BUT MY JUDGMENT IS THAT HE IS NOT FULLY CONVERSANT WITH MAJOR ISSUES AND UNLIKELY TO BE IN A POSITION OF ANY GREAT INFLUENCE WITH THE KING. HOWEVER, IF YOU DID COME YOU WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO SEE HIM. MY FRANK IMPRESSION AT THIS MOMENT IS THAT WHILE KING IS NOT DODGING THE PROSPECT OF SEEING YOU, JORDANIANS ARE NOT BREAKING DOWN ANY BARRIERS TO DO SO EITHER.

3. KING TOLD ME BEFORE HE LEFT THAT THIS WOULD BE HIS LAST CHANCE FOR A LONG TIME TO GET AWAY AND I SUSPECT THAT IS THE MAIN REASON WHY HE IS RELUCTANT IN COMING

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BACK FROM LONDON WHERE HE IS RELAXING. HOWEVER, INSISTENT DRUM FIRE OF ISRAELI PRESS AND DAYAN IN U.S. BEATING OVER AND OVER AGAIN ON THEME THAT YOU ARE COMING TO PERSUADE, OR PERHAPS EVEN MORE FORCEFULLY, TO BRING HUSSEIN INTO NEGOTIATIONS CANNOT HAVE MADE JORDANIANS ANY HAPPIER WITH THE PROSPECTS.

4. I HAVE SOME IMPORTANT ISSUES TO TALK OVER WITH YOU
AND WOULD WELCOME YOUR PRESENCE HERE TO DO THAT ALSO.

5. IN SUM, I BELIEVE A MEETING WITH THE CROWN PRINCE
WILL BE NECESSARY IF YOU COME AND THAT HE IS THE ONLY
INDIVIDUAL WORTH TALKING TO. IF SHARAF HAS UNEXPECTEDLY
RETURNED, THEN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM WOULD CERTAINLY
BE MOST WORTHWHILE. PRIME MINISTER IS NOT FULLY IN THE
PICTURE AND IS NOT VERY SYMPATHETIC WITH ANY MOVES TO
GET JORDAN INTO THE PROCESS. BUT A COURTESY CALL ON HIM
MAY ALSO BE REQUIRED, PARTICULARLY IF KING IS NOT ON
HAND TO ABSORB THE FULL PROCESS.

6. OUR BEST GUESS AT THE MOMENT IS THAT TIME FOR MEETING
WITH THE KING CAN BE AT ANY POINT AFTER FEBRUARY 28 WITH
MARCH 3 OR 4 MOST LIKELY. HOWEVER, THIS IS ONLY
RPT ONLY OUR BEST GUESS AT THIS POINT.

7. WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR INFO ON HOW YOU INTEND TO PROCEED
TO RIYADH OR JIDDA. DO YOU WANT US TO MAKE COMMERCIAL
RESERVATIONS OR MAY WE ASSUME, PER STATE 037117, THAT YOU
WILL TAKE MILITARY AIRCRAFT? IF MILITARY AIRCRAFT BEING
UTILIZED, PLEASE BE AWARE THAT DIRECT FLIGHT OF AIRCRAFT
FROM ISRAEL TO PICK YOU UP IN JORDAN NOT POSSIBLE. WE HAVE
JUST RECEIVED DAO TEL AVIV CLEARANCE REQUEST. SUGGEST AIR-
CRAFT FILE TRANSIT THROUGH CYPRUS VIA LEBANON AND SYRIA FOR
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AMMAN.

8. HOPE YOU AND BETTE, AND DICK MURPHY, WILL PLAN TO STAY
WITH US AT THE RESIDENCE.
PICKERING

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NNN

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